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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

2(Currently Amended). The composition according to claim + 21, wherein said polypeptide ~~(a)~~ is a sequence that contains one to four conservative amino acid replacements in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~2~~ or 4.

3(Currently Amended). The composition according to claim + 21, wherein said polypeptide ~~(a)~~ is a homolog ~~having~~ has at least 85% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~2~~ or 4.

4(Currently Amended). The composition according to claim + 21, wherein said polypeptide ~~or peptide~~ is fused to a second polypeptide or protein.

5(Original). The composition according to claim 4, wherein said second polypeptide or protein is an antigen or fragment thereof from a heterologous pathogenic species or a homologous pathogenic species.

6(Currently Amended). The composition according to claim + 21, wherein said polypeptide fragment comprises ~~an amino acid sequence within~~ amino acids 720 to 745 of SEQ ID NO: ~~2~~ or 4.

7(Currently Amended). The composition according to claim + 21, wherein said polypeptide fragment comprises ~~an amino acid sequence within~~ amino acids 1 to 178 of SEQ ID NO: ~~2~~ or 4.

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Claims 8-16(Canceled).

17(Currently Amended). The compositions composition according to claim 16 25, which is a diagnostic reagent.

18(Currently Amended). The composition according to claim 16 25, with which is a diagnostic kit.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).

21(New): An immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide comprising at least eight consecutive amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 4, which polypeptide induces antibodies to *Neisseriae* strains in a mammalian subject and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22(New): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said antibodies interfere with the binding of said *Neisseriae* strains to their cellular target.

23(New): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said antibodies are cross-reactive with multiple *Neisseriae* strains.

24(New): The composition according to claim 21, wherein said effective amount ranges between 1 ng and 1000 mg of said polypeptide.

25(New): A diagnostic composition comprising a polypeptide comprising a sequence of at least eight consecutive amino acids from SEQ ID NO: 4, which induces antibodies to *Neisseriae* strains in a mammalian subject and a suitable detectable label or detection system.

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26(New): The composition according to claim 25, wherein said polypeptide contains one to four conservative amino acid replacements in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

27(New): The composition according to claim 25, wherein said polypeptide has at least 85% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

28(New): The composition according to claim 25, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 720 to 745 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

29(New): The composition according to claim 25, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 178 of SEQ ID NO: 4.